

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### **Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A tampon for feminine hygiene comprising an insertion end, a withdrawal end, a longitudinal axis, and an outer surface; said tampon being comprised of compressed fibrous material; wherein said outer surface of said tampon comprises a plurality of recessed portions; each of said recessed portions has a width dimension, wherein the width dimension varies intermittently as measured along the longitudinal axis of the tampon; each of said recessed portions comprising at the insertion end of the tampon a first width dimension x and a second width dimension y; wherein said first width dimension x is greater than said second width dimension y; and each of said recessed portions comprising at the withdrawal end of the tampon a first width dimension x<sup>1</sup> and a second width dimension y<sup>1</sup>.

Claims 2-3. (Cancelled)

Claim 4. (Original) The tampon according to Claim 1 wherein said recessed portions are arranged in a pattern.

Claim 5. (Original) The tampon according to Claim 1 wherein said recessed portions are parallel with said longitudinal axis.

Claim 6. (Original) The tampon according to Claim 1 wherein said recessed portions are spirally shaped.

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Claim 7. (Original) The tampon according to Claim 1 wherein the fibrous material of said tampon has an essentially uniform density over a cross-section of the tampon.

Claim 8. (Original) The tampon according to Claim 1 wherein the fibrous material of said tampon has varying density over a cross-section of the tampon.

Claim 9. (Original) The tampon according to Claim 1 wherein said tampon further comprises a core which is highly compressed.

Claim 10. (Original) The tampon according to Claim 1 wherein said withdrawal end further comprises a withdrawal member.

Claim 11. (Original) The tampon according to Claim 1 wherein said withdrawal end further comprises a finger indent.